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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IT

SUBJECT: ITALY-US CONSULTATIONS ON UN MATTERS

REF: USUN 3753

1. IN FOUR HOURS OF INTENSIVE, FRANK, AND FRIENDLY CONSULTATIONS ON UN MATTERS TODAY BETWEEN ITALIAN POLITICAL DIRECTOR, EUGENIO PLAJA, AND ACTING IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE, FOLLOWING POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST AROSE, (DEPARTMENT WILL POUCH MEMCON TO EMBASSY ROME AND USUN. DISCUSSIONS, WHERE THEY COVERED MATERIAL ALREADY COVERED IN OTHER CHANNELS, ARE NOT REPEATED HERE):

(A) ISRAEL SUSPENSION - PLAJA SAID ITALY HAS MADE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF DEMARCHES AGAINST EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM GA. ALTHOUGH PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT SUPPORT FOR EXCLUSION IS NOT GROWING, HE DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY ISSUE WILL BE RAISED IN GA. PLAJA SAID HE THOUGHT MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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DANGEROUS PERIOD WAS LATE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, BY WHICH TIME IT WOULD BE CLEAR WHETHER ISRAEL WAS WILLING TO TAKE NEXT STEP TOWARDS PEACE BY ENTERING INTO NEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION WHAT US INTENDED TO DO

IF ISRAEL WERE EXCLUDED, BLAKE STATED USG WOULD HAVE TO REACT STRONGLY. NATURE OF OUR ACTION WOULD BE DECIDED AT HIGHEST LEVEL AND IN CONTEXT OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUND-

ING ANY SUCH UNFORTUNATE DECISION. ASKED IF ITALY CONTEMPLATED STRONG REACTION IF ISRAEL SUSPENDED, PLAJA SAID THIS MATTER HAD NOT YET RECEIVED TOP LEVEL ATTENTION. (WE JUDGED IN CONTEXT, HOWEVER, THAT ITALY WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO REACT STRONGLY UNLESS MAJORITY OF EC-9 MEMBERS DID LIKEWISE.) PLAJA SAID IN RECENT EC-9 DISCUSSIONS OF THIS QUESTION IN HELSINKI AT POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL, QUESTION OF REACTION TO ISRAELI SUSPENSION RAISED BY DUTCH, WHO INDICATED THEY WERE PREPARED TO REACT STRONGLY. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO PLAJA, NO ONE ELSE READY TO SPEAK TO SUBJECT.

(B) SOUTH AFRICAN SUSPENSION - PLAJA SAID SUSPENSION OF SOUTH AFRICA BY GA INEVITABLE AND BLAKE AGREED THIS LIKELY TO BE SO. PLAJA SAID EC-9 REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK HAVE CAREFULLY STUDIED LINKAGE OF SUSPENSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL AND HAVE PREPARED A PAPER ON SUBJECT (USUN REQUESTED TO OBTAIN COPY OF PAPER FOR DEPARTMENT). EC-9 EXPERTS HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED WHAT KIND OF ADVICE TO GIVE TO GA PRESIDENT THORN ON SUSPENSION QUESTIONS. THORN SEEMS WILLING TO BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY EC-9 AND, PLAJA THOUGHT, AMERICAN RECOMMENDATIONS. EC-9 AGREED THAT THORN SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT RETURN TO HAMBRO DECISION. ON OTHER HAND, EC-9 AGREED IT WOULD BE MISTAKE FOR THORN TO REPEAT BOUTEFLIKA RULING. THEREFORE, EC-9 EXPERTS TRYING TO DEVISE FORMULA BETWEEN THE TWO. BLAKE SAID DEPARTMENT IS ALSO STUDYING THIS QUESTION BUT HAS COME TO NO CONCLUSIONS. WE, TOO, WOULD HOPE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THORN WHEN THERE WERE INDICATIONS OUR VIEWS WOULD BE WELCOMED. PLAJA SUGGESTED WE UNDERTAKE A DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT AT A RELATIVELY EARLY STAGE WITH LUXEMBOURG PERMREP IN NEW YORK. USUN'S COMMENTS INVITED.

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(C) SOUTH AFRICA - PLAJA SAID EC-9 AGREED AT HELSINKI THAT IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE SOME STRONG SIGN OF DISPLEASURE TO WORLD RE EC-9'S DISAPPROVAL OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RIGIDITY TOWARD NAMIBIA. HE SAID EC-9 HOPED TO MAKE STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA VERY SOON BASED ON POSSIBLE US, UK, FRENCH DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA AND ASKED WHERE THIS STOOD. BLAKE SAID DEPARTMENT THOUGHT DEMARCHE COULD PROBABLY BE MADE TO SAG BUT THIS WAS BEING REVIEWED AT HIGH LEVEL. ASKED WHAT SIGN OF DISPLEASURE WOULD BE, PLAJA SAID EC-9 NOT ABLE TO AGREE. HE PERSONALLY EXCLUDED CALL FOR EC-9 ARMS EMBARGO, SAYING ITALY COULD APPLY ARMS EMBARGO ONLY IF SC VOTED MANDATORY SANCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT.

(D) KOREA - BLAKE EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH RATIONALE BEHIND "FRIENDLY RESOLUTION", EXPLAINING USG HAS NO DESIRE TO RETAIN UNC COMMAND IN KOREA EXCEPT AS VEHICLE FOR PRESERVING ARMISTICE ARRANGEMENT. BLAKE REQUESTED PLAJA HAVE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MAKE STRONG STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF USG POSITION IN KOREA AND IN FAVOR OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IN GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH. PLAJA SEEMED TO THINK THIS POSSIBLE. PLAJA SAID ITALY DECIDED AGAINST COSPONSORING FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD VOTE FOR THIS RESOLUTION AND WOULD IN GENERAL SUPPORT US POSITION. ONE REASON FOR NOT COSPONSORING WAS DESIRE TO BE IN POSITION TO BE ACTIVE WHEN AND IF COMPROMISE MIGHT BECOME POSSIBLE BETWEEN TWO RESOLUTIONS. BLAKE EMPHASIZED OUR STRONG VIEW THAT ONLY WAY TO GET AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG, ROK, JAPAN AND OTHER COSPONSORS WOULD BE TO WORK FROM POSITION OF STRENGTH. UNTIL HOSTILE RESOLUTION COSPONSORS CONVINCED THEY COULD NOT WIN THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO CONSENSUS ACCEPTABLE TO US. THEREFORE, IT TACTICALLY IMPORTANT WESTERN NATIONS NOT MOVE TOO EARLY FOR ANY KIND OF COMPROMISE SOLUTION. PLAJA SAID ITALY FELT THERE WOULD BE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN DEFEATING A HOSTILE RESOLUTION, AND DECISION MIGHT LIE WITH FEW COUNTRIES JUST ADMITTED TO UN. IN VIEW OF CLOSENESS LAST YEAR'S VOTE, EC-9 NOT ABLE, DESPITE EFFORTS, TO REACH COMMON POSITION IN SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND AGAINST HOSTILE
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RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT OF FRENCH.

(E) SC ELECTIONS - PLAJA SAID ITALIANS ANXIOUS TO ASSURE ASIAN ELECTED TO SC THIS YEAR WAS AS FRIENDLY TO WESTERN INTERESTS AS POSSIBLE. BLAKE SAID US HAD NOT CHOSEN AMONG INDIA, PAKISTAN AND PHILIPPINES AND WAS AWAITING CHOICE OF ASIAN GROUP. PLAJA SAID HE THOUGHT PHILIPPINES WOULD BE ELIMINATED IN VOTE AND HINTED ITALY MIGHT SUPPORT PAKISTAN, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE MATTER OF DECISION AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

(F) ACABQ - PLAJA MADE STRONG PITCH FOR US SUPPORT FOR REELECTION OF ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO ACABQ AS AGAINST GERMAN CANDIDATE. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE LAST TIME ITALIAN WOULD SEEK REELECTION. BLAKE SAID WE WOULD GIVE ITALIAN REQUEST OUR FRIENDLY ATTENTION.

(G) CSCE - PLAJA WONDERED WHETHER SOVS WOULD TRY TO GET GA BENEDICTION FOR CSCE RESULTS USING SAME ARGUMENTATION REFLECTED IN USUN 3753. PLAJA URGED US NOT SUPPORT ANY SUCH SOV INITIATIVE. HE ADMITTED SOUNDINGS BY ITALIAN EMBASSIES IN KEY POSTS REVEALED NO INDICATION OF SUCH SOV INITIATIVE, BUT ASKED WE FOLLOW

THIS QUESTION WITH CARE. BLAKE SAID WE HAD NO INDICATIONS SOVS PLANNED TO RAISE SUBJECT IN GA BUT SAID THIS COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED. SOVS ALWAYS WANT AT LEAST ONE INITIATIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY AREA.

(H) ADMISSION OF VIETNAM TO UN - PLAJA SAID ITALY HAD NUMBER OF INDICATIONS NAL MEMBERS WOULD SEEK TO HAVE GA RECOMMEND TO SC THAT TWO VIETNAMS BE ADMITTED TO UN MEMBERSHIP. HE ASKED WHAT US WOULD DO IN THIS CASE. BLAKE SAID IT DIFFICULT TO KNOW EXACTLY. ONE OBVIOUS WAY WOULD BE TO COUNTER WITH AMENDMENT ASKING IN ADDITION FOR ADMISSION OF TWO KOREAS OR AT LEAST ROK. PLAJA SAID ITALY WOULD SUPPORT SUCH AN AMENDMENT BUT HE WAS NOT SURE IT WOULD WIN -- A VOTE MIGHT BE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THAT OF ONE OR BOTH RESOLUTIONS ON KOREA, AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE PERHAPS OBVIOUS UNFAVORABLE LINKAGE.

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(I) CHARTER REVISION - PLAJA SAID WHILE NOT SUPPORTING CHARTER REVISION AT THIS TIME IN VIEW OF STRONG OPPOSITION OF THREE WESTERN PERMANENT SC MEMBERS, ITALY THOUGHT IN TIME WEST WOULD HAVE TO SHOW SOME MOVEMENT TOWARDS CHARTER REVISION TO GAIN CONTINUING SUPPORT FROM LDC'S. THIS DID NOT MEAN ITALY WOULD SUPPORT ABOLITION OF VETO OR EVEN ADVOCATE CHANGE IN COMPOSITION OF PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP. PLAJA SAID ITALY STILL SMARTING OVER USG ENDORSEMENT OF PERMANENT SEAT FOR JAPAN WHEREAS US APPARENTLY NOT WILLING TO SUPPORT ITALY FOR PERMANENT SEAT. BLAKE SAID DEPARTMENT STILL OPPOSED TO STARTING DOWN ROAD TOWARD CONSIDERING CHARTER AMENDMENTS AND ITALY WOULD HAVE HARD TIME CONVINCING US OF WISDOM OF DOING SO.

2. COMMENT: THESE TALKS WERE EXTREMELY CANDID AND USEFUL. PLEASE TELL FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PLAJA HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATED HIS TAKING THE TIME TO COME TO WASHINGTON. PLAJA SAID HE HOPED BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WILL BE REPEATED NEXT YEAR IN ROME. PROCESS OF HOLDING SPECIAL BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS IS BECOMING VERY TIME CONSUMING AND IS NECESSARILY UNDER REVIEW. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND IN FRIENDLY FASHION ON THIS POINT BUT AVOID ANY COMMITMENT. INGERSOLL

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